

21 November 1974

Subject: Discussion with Bill Lang

I met with Bill Lang and his Mutual Security Assistance Working Group in re the contributions CIA might make. (15 Nov 1974)

The areas in which they hope we could contribute would include:

1. Economic data or economic studies on the effects of inflation on mutual security support countries, particularly with the view to providing judgments on the ability of LDC's to pay for their own defense programs.
2. Chinese and Soviet use of military assistance as a policy weapon in the LDC's.
3. French and British role in the military sales and military aid field.

On the above, I told Lang that we probably do not have too much on No. 3; that I thought we were in good shape on No. 2, and that on No. 1 for a lot of the countries we would be in good shape and others we might not have too much. I also told him that our economics people were up to their eyeballs and that our effort would pretty much be providing studies that were off-the-shelf or data that was readily available, but that we could not take on very much in the way of new research projects. He said he understood and agreed.

More

He asked what we could do in terms of that part of an outline which talks about congressional or US criticism of the program. I told him that would be a "no-no" for CIA. He agreed.

Some of the countries they are concerned about are Indochina- [redacted]

[redacted]-and base right countries (Portugal, Spain, the Philippines, and Thailand). They do not want definitive studies on each of these countries, but stuff pertinent to the question: How able are they to pay their own way?

They wanted each member of the Working Group to file independent papers--their views, not official Agency views--on a concepts part of the outline. I have already asked [redacted] to do. The paper is kind of a free thinking piece on what were the factors that influenced our mutual security program in the past and as we look down the future, how will the international climate affect future mutual security programs.

I am under commitment to provide the [redacted] paper and to designate an Agency representative to the Working Group that will take care of the other forms of Agency support needed.

PVW